

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee

Meeting of Tuesday, March 21, 2011

Bangs Community Center, Room 101

Attendance: Mary Streeter, Peggy Roberts, Adrienne Terrizzi, Harry Brooks, Rob Crowner, Nonny Burack; absent: Carol Gray.

1. Call to order: Peggy calls the meeting to order at 2:06pm.

2. Old business: Adrienne states that the committee has been planning to reconsider the TMCC event evaluation form and requests that members come to the next meeting with suggestions for revisions.

3. Planning for Annual Town Meeting: Articles: Mary reviews the probable CPAC articles in order to plan for the warrant review and bus tour. Preliminary votes have been taken but may be revisited before Town Meeting begins. Rob reviews the probable Planning Board articles. Mary states that while the March 15 stretch code presentation was not recorded, a special taping will take place at the ACTV studio on Wednesday, March 23. Mary reports that ACTV is also working on making certain meeting broadcasts available in podcast form in order to make them more accessible.

Warrant review: The committee discusses whether to begin the warrant review at 7:30, as originally scheduled, or 7:00, the time scheduled for new member orientation, which has been moved to the precinct meetings. By consensus, the committee agrees to begin at 7:00, which is preferable to the Finance Committee anyway, since they will be meeting at the same time in the same building and will be called upon to make presentations at the TMCC event. Harry will confirm that ACTV is scheduled to begin recording at 7:00 on Thursday, April 14 in the Town Room.

Bus tour: Harry has reserved a bus for May 1 from 2:00 to 4:00. The committee acknowledges that planning the itinerary and handouts for the bus tour will of necessity be different this year because Carol is not present to handle it as usual. Since it will take place just before Town Meeting starts and will not be recorded, the committee determines to complete preparations well in advance so that a list of stops and associated articles can be posted on the town website, allowing people to do self-guided tours at their own convenience. A subcommittee will be delegated to work on it, probably just prior to or following a meeting of the full committee. Harry agrees to prepare a preliminary list of stops based on the discussion at this meeting.

New member orientation: Adrienne will distribute copies of LWV publications "Town Meeting Handbook" and "Your Amherst Government" to precinct meeting leaders to give to new Town Meeting members. Rob will request copies of the Zoning Bylaw for use during precinct meetings. The committee discusses the content of the new member orientation using Adrienne's draft agenda. Adrienne will revise the draft based on feedback received and bring it back to the next meeting.

Precinct meetings: The committee discusses how to advertise the precinct meeting agenda and schedule and ultimately agrees to begin new member welcome at 7:00, with discussion of the warrant from 7:30 to 9:30. Considerable flexibility will be accorded to individual precinct meeting leaders.

Packet materials: Rob presents drafts of fliers for the first and second packets. There is currently about five sides worth of information to be included, so a decision will have to be made about whether to consolidate to two double-sided fliers or to include a third sheet (with or without two sides). Rob will take the feedback received during discussion and bring revised versions to the next meeting.

4. Materials at Jones Library: Nonny reports that Jody Simpson has inquired into the TMCC materials on reserve at the Jones Library at the committee's request and discovered a level of "disarray", with much recent material lacking. The committee discusses whether and how to attempt to rebuild the TMCC-related holdings.

5. TMCC webpage: Mary reports that she has incorporated recent feedback into her updating of the TMCC section of the town website, and encourages committee members to continue to visit the site and offer additional suggestions.

6. New business: Mary points out that TMCC might need to substantially reorganize following the upcoming town election, since four current members are on the ballot and some races will be competitive this year.

7. Minutes of previous meetings: Nonny moves, Adrienne seconds, and the committee votes 5-0 with one abstention (Mary, who was not present) to approve without amendment the minutes of the March 7 meeting.

8. Adjournment: The meeting is adjourned at 4:05pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4 at 2:00pm in the Romer Room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner

Documents provided:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of March 7, 2011 meeting
3. draft agenda for new TM member welcome and introduction